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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable WILLIAM M. COWAN, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's opening prayer will be offered by Reverend Ronald Derrick, National Chaplain for the American Legion of Rigby, ID.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, thank You for this day. Grant us Your presence. We stand in a room representing power and authority given by Your hand. Keep us mindful that one day we shall stand in a greater room and give an accounting of the decisions made this day. Therefore, I pray with words that have been spoken down through the ages that You, O Lord, will grant to these leaders of our Nation health, peace, concord, and stability that they may administer the government without failure.

Direct their counsel according to that which is good and well pleasing in Your sight. May it be said of them that they performed the duties of their office faithfully and impartially.

Bless each individual present here today, for by blessing the individual, You have blessed this Nation. To You be the glory.

In Your most Holy Name I pray. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable WILLIAM M. COWAN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication

to the Senate from the President protempore (Mr. LEAHY.)

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,

 $\begin{array}{c} \text{President pro tempore,} \\ Washington, DC, February 27, 2013. \end{array}$

 $To\ the\ Senate:$

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable WILLIAM M. COWAN, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to perform the duties of the Chair.

Patrick J. Leahy.

President pro tempore.

Mr. COWAN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Following leader remarks, the Senate will be in a period of morning business with the majority controlling the first 30 minutes and the Republicans the final 30 minutes.

Yesterday, the Finance Committee reported the nomination of Jacob Lew to be Treasury Secretary. We hope to reach an agreement to move this nomination forward today.

In addition, I filed cloture on the motion to proceed to the American Family Economic Protection Act. If no further consent is reached, that cloture vote will be tomorrow morning.

I will now yield to my friend from Idaho. Senator CRAPO.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Idaho.

WELCOMING THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. CRAPO. Thank you, Senator

I rise today to thank Chaplain Ronald L. Derrick for joining us today to offer the Senate's opening prayer. I am honored to have the privilege of welcoming this esteemed Idahoan to the U.S. Senate to serve as our guest chaplain.

Chaplain Derrick, who is joining us from Rigby, ID, has many years of service to our community and our Nation. He served our Nation in the U.S. Army from 1966 to 1968. He retired from his Bonneville County, ID, job after 23 years as a printer and mail clerk and he is also a former county coroner, Driggs Chamber of Commerce president, and volunteer EMT firefighter. In 1987, the American Legion recognized Chaplain Derrick as Idaho's firefighter of the year.

Chaplain Derrick was ordained into the ministry in 1979 through the Solid Rock Pentecostal Church, and he continues to serve in various aspects of ministry. Reflecting his long spiritual contributions to the community, he was given the high honor of serving as National Chaplain of the American Legion for the 2012-2013 term. Through this position, he performs and oversees services and provides prayers and guidance for the Legion's 2.4 million members. As a 40-year member of the American Legion, he has a strong connection with his fellow veterans, servicemembers, and the communities he serves. In addition to serving as National Chaplain, he has served at a number of other leadership positions in the American Legion. Truly, his devotion to those in his community and his Nation has touched the lives of many in civic and spiritual ways.

Chaplain Derrick has been married for 45 years to his wife Bird, who serves as the Department of Idaho Auxiliary Chaplain. They have three children: Tim, Andrew, and Dana Sue, and nine grandchildren.

Chaplain Derrick, thank you for your dedication and service and the blessing you are bringing to the Senate today.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

